

## Interview with Nello Rossi and Lenny Frezzini at

on 10/28/15

EPA OSCs David Rosoff and Cris D'Onofrio interviewed Nello Rossi and Lenny Frezzini regarding the Princeton Recycles Site in Princeton, New Jersey.

Mr. Frezzini was able to help Mr. Rossi remember some things to help answer the questions.

The following questions were asked with the answers provided:

***When did Mr. Rossi purchase the Site property and was there a scrapyard at the property prior to that purchase? What was the history of site operations?***

Mr. Rossi said he purchased lot 2 (409 Basin Street) in 1954. He purchased lot 8 at a later date (he didn't remember when) but he did say he used lot 8 as his metal storage yard. He said there were at least 2 recycling businesses on lot 2 in the 40 years or so prior to his purchase of the property. He did not recall the names of those businesses or the name of the person he bought the property from. Mr. Rossi said he lived on and operated at the site from 1954 until the early 1990s. In 1993 he leased the scrapyard to Arthur Massarro for about 2 months before evicting him. Apparently Mr. Massarro damaged some of Mr. Rossi's personal property. Additionally, Mr. Rossi didn't approve of all of Mr. Massarro's business practices (i.e. Massarro's wife used a knife to remove wire casing by hand) and was afraid someone would get hurt, possibly resulting in a lawsuit. In 1997 he leased the yard to Ziya Polat ("the Turk"). Mr. Polat was evicted in about 2003. Currently, his niece, Maria Angioletti manages the house at 409 Basin Street. It is a 2 family rental house.

***What was the nature of Mr. Rossi's Business at the Site?***

Mr. Rossi stated that his business was mostly paper recycling. He would bring large loads of paper which he would bail in a bailing shed and then move offsite by truck for sale to paper mills (mostly in Pennsylvania). Much of the paper Mr. Rossi purchased by lot at paper auctions. He also received paper waste from Princeton University mostly in the form of used computer programming cards. Mr. Rossi also stated he did some scrap metal recycling, taking in scrap from individuals who would bring it to the yard. He stored much of this scrap on Lot 8. Most of the metal he took in was scrap iron but he also did copper and lead recycling, taking in wire, stripping it and/or burning it to get the metal. Mr. Rossi stated that he did receive lead shielded wire (communication wire) where he would strip off the lead shielding and recycle it. He also remembered taking in some small number of transformers, mostly ones brought in from the local area after they had exploded or burned in the field. Most metal materials were brought to the yard by individuals and Mr. Rossi would purchase the scrap in a cash only transaction. Mr. Rossi said there would be no records of these transactions. He also purchased scrap metal from Princeton University. Transformers and wire were supplied by Western Electric. There were bills associated with his dealings with the University and Western Electric but he did not retain any of these records. Scrap metal, copper and lead were sold to Camden Iron and Metal in Camden, NJ or to a scrap metal clearing house in Newark (he could not remember the name). Regarding timelines and details about when materials came to the site, Mr. Rossi generally was not able to recall.

***What was the nature of site operations?***

Scrap metal and paper came into the site by truck. Paper was handled in an approximately 60x60 bailing shed behind the house at 409 Basin. Scrap metal was handled on site by heavy equipment (including a small crane). There were 2 scales on the site – one truck scale and one platform scale. Lot 8 was used to store the metal scrap. Lot 2 was used to handle the paper. There was a burn area behind the shed about 200 feet west of Basin Street where wire was burned to reclaim the copper.

***What did Mr. Rossi do with the transformer oil?***

Mr. Rossi said that he received approximately a dozen transformers from Western Electric between 1960 and the mid-1980s. It wasn't until the last two came in the mid-1980s that he became aware that the oil "was bad". He said he learned the oil was bad when he tried to get rid of it at a local gas station. Prior to that Mr. Rossi said he either burned the oil on site in the burn area (while burning wire) or got rid of it off site (at gas stations?). Mr. Rossi said that these last two transformers were much larger and had a lot more oil in them than the previous ones he had received. He stated that several 55-gallon drums were filled with the oil and that he worked with NJDEP to get rid of it properly (mid 1980s timeframe). He stated it cost him \$5000 dollars to dispose of those drums.

***What could Mr. Rossi tell us about Ziya Polat?***

Mr. Rossi recalls Ziya Polat as generally a "bad man". He did pay his rent for the most part but he made a mess of the scrapyards, annoyed the Town and the neighbors with his behaviors (noise, dust, late and early hours of operation), and he stole from him. Eventually Mr. Rossi had to have him evicted in court. During the time Mr. Polat ran the scrapyards, Mr. Rossi recalled that he handled a lot of oil and paint. He stated that Mr. Polat was very sloppy and was known to dump oil on the ground. According to Mr. Rossi, during the dispute surrounding his eviction, Polat dumped oil near Mr. Rossi's house and called NJDEP to report Mr. Rossi for a spill. Mr. Rossi also stated that Mr. Polat practiced the burning of wire in a burn area to the back of the property. According to Mr. Rossi, Mr. Polat did a lot of scrap metal business and repaired bicycles which he sold. Mr. Rossi stated that he didn't think Polat was a smart businessman and would do anything to make money; a practice that led to failed business ventures. Mr. Rossi remembered that Mr. Polat had at one time purchased Lot 1 next to the site and that he had lived in the dilapidated house on that property with no utilities. Mr. Rossi believes that Mr. Polat is dead.